

Appln No. 10/760,187
Amdt. Dated March 20, 2006
Response to Office Action of February 16, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's first Office Action of February 16, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and abstract, and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

the abstract of the disclosure is amended to replace the term "comprising" with --having-- , as required by the Examiner;

independent claim 1 is amended to specify that each successive layer of the claimed laminated stack from the support member to the nozzles has distribution apertures of successively smaller diameter. Support for this amendment can be found in pending claim 4 and, for example, at page 32, line 1-page 33, line 10 of the present specification;

dependent claims 2-12 are unchanged; and

page 1, line 10, page 14, line 1, page 15, line 19, page 18, line 1 and line 33, page 22, line 36 and page 33, line 15 of the present specification are amended to omit reference to Fig 17C.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 4 and 5 under the conditions stated in the Office Action.

Regarding Specification Objections

It is respectfully submitted that the above-discussed amendment of the abstract to replace "comprising" with --having--, provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the above-discussed amended independent claim 1, which incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 4, and therefore claims 2, 3 and 6-12 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by Silverbrook (US 6,409,323), for at least the reasons stated by the Examiner in the Allowable Subject Matter section of the Office Action.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,
Applicant:



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